

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claims 10-19, 23-30, 32, 34-68, 72-79, 81, 83, 84, 89-115, 119-132, and 136-165 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Brendzel et al. (US 5,859,901).
2. In regards to claims 10, 59, 108, 125, 142, 146, 148, 152, 156, 158, 160, and 164, Brendzel discloses a method, computerized system, and computer-readable medium for simplifying telephonic calling, comprising: designating a destination area code; the user specifying a seven-digit telephone number; and causing said call to be signaled using the designated destination area code in combination with the specified seven-digit telephone number, without the user entering said designated destination area code when specifying said seven-digit telephone number (See col. 1 lines 50-59 and col. 3 lines 6-22).
3. In regards to claims 11, 60, 109, 126, 143, 147, 149, 153, 157, 159, 161, 163, and 165, Brendzel discloses the method, system, and computer-readable medium,

further comprising: determining that said designated destination area code is not required to properly signal said call; and as a consequence of said determining, causing said call to be signaled without using said designated destination area code (See col. 1 lines 50-59).

4. In regards to claims 12, 61, 144, 150, 154, and 162, Brendzel discloses the method, system, and computer-readable medium, further comprising: associating a plurality of area code selectors with a plurality of area codes; the user selecting one of said area code selectors and thereby selecting its associated area code; and causing said call to be signaled using the selected area code in combination with said specified seven-digit telephone number, without the user entering said selected area code when specifying said seven-digit telephone number (See col. 2-3 lines 53-22).

5. In regards to claims 13, 62, 145, 151, and 155, Brendzel discloses the method, system, and computer-readable medium, further comprising: determining that said selected area code is not required to properly signal said call; and as a consequence of said determining, causing said call to be signaled without using said selected area code (See col. 2-3 lines 53-22).

6. In regards to claims 14, 63, 110, and 127, Brendzel discloses the method and system, said associating said plurality of area code selectors with said plurality of area codes comprising: the user associating said plurality of area code selectors with said plurality of area codes (See col. 2-3 lines 53-22).

7. In regards to claims 15, 64, 111, and 128, Brendzel discloses the method and system, further comprising: changing (e.g., updating) at least one of the associations to

a different association (See col. 3 lines 23-34).

8. In regards to claims 16, 65, 112, and 129, Brendzel discloses the method and system, further comprising: the user changing at least one of the associations to a different association (See col. 3 lines 23-34).

9. In regards to claims 17, 66, 113, and 130, Brendzel discloses the method and system, said associating said plurality of area code selectors with said plurality of area codes comprising: a provider of telecommunications services associating said plurality of area code selectors with said plurality of area codes (See Claim 11).

10. In regards to claims 18, 67, 114, and 131, Brendzel discloses the method and system, said associating said plurality of area code selectors with said plurality of area codes comprising: computerized equipment associating said plurality of area code selectors with said plurality of area codes (See col. 2-3 lines 53-22).

11. In regards to claims 19, 68, 115, and 132, Brendzel discloses the method and system, said associating said plurality of area code selectors with said plurality of area codes comprising: associating said plurality of area code selectors with said plurality of area codes based on an area code configuration (See col. 2-3 lines 53-22).

12. In regards to claims 23, 72, 119, and 136, Brendzel discloses the method and system, further comprising causing said call to be signaled using digits representing said selected area code in combination with digits representing said specified seven-digit telephone number (See col. 3 lines 6-21).

13. In regards to claims 24, 73, 120, and 137, Brendzel discloses the method and system, further comprising causing said call to be signaled using signaling information

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representing said selected area code in combination with signaling information
representing said specified seven-digit telephone number (See col. 3 lines 6-21).

14. In regards to claims 25, 74, 121, and 138, Brendzel discloses the method and system, further comprising using a call-originating device for: associating said plurality of area codes with said plurality of area code selectors, selecting said selected area code, specifying said seven-digit telephone number, and causing said call to be signaled (See col. 4 lines 32-42).

15. In regards to claims 26, 75, 122, and 139, Brendzel discloses the method and system, further comprising using customer premises equipment separate from and connected to a call-originating device, in combination with said call-originating device, for: associating said plurality of area codes with said plurality of area code selectors, selecting said selected area code, specifying said seven-digit telephone number, and causing said call to be signaled (See col. 4 lines 32-42).

16. In regards to claims 27, 76, 123, and 140, Brendzel discloses the method and system, further comprising using telecommunications service provider equipment separate from and connected to a call-originating device, in combination with said call-originating device, for: associating said plurality of area codes with said plurality of area code selectors, selecting said selected area code, specifying said seven-digit telephone number, and causing said call to be signaled (See col. 4 lines 32-42).

17. In regards to claims 28, 77, 124, and 141, Brendzel discloses the method and system, further comprising using customer premises equipment separate from and connected to a call-originating device, in combination with telecommunications service

provider equipment separate from and connected to said customer premises equipment, in further combination with said call-originating device, for: associating said plurality of area codes with said plurality of area code selectors, selecting said selected area code, specifying said seven-digit telephone number, and causing said call to be signaled (See col. 4 lines 32-42).

18. In regards to claims 29 and 78, Brendzel discloses the method and system, further comprising: causing said call to be signaled following the user specifying said seven-digit telephone number (See col. 3 lines 23-31).

19. In regards to claims 30 and 79, Brendzel discloses the method and system, further comprising: causing said call to be signaled as a result of detecting that a predetermined timing delay has expired following the user specifying said seven-digit telephone number (See col. 4 lines 43-56).

20. In regards to claims 34 and 83, Brendzel discloses the method and system, further comprising: causing said call to be signaled following the user specifying said seven-digit telephone number (See col. 3 lines 23-31).

21. In regards to claims 35 and 84, Brendzel discloses the method and system, further comprising: causing said call to be signaled as a result of detecting that a predetermined timing delay has expired following the user specifying said seven-digit telephone number (See col. 4 lines 43-56).

22. In regards to claims 41, 89, and 90, Brendzel discloses the method and system, said designating said destination area code comprising: a provider of telecommunications services designating said designated destination area code (See

Claim 11).

23. In regards to claims 32, 42, 81, and 91, Brendzel discloses the method and system, said designating said destination area code comprising: computerized equipment designating said designated destination area code (See col. 3 lines 6-22).

24. In regards to claims 43 and 92, Brendzel discloses the method and system, said designating said destination area code comprising: designating said designated destination area code to be the same as an originating area code (See Fig. 1 and col. 2 lines 21-48).

25. In regards to claims 44 and 93, Brendzel discloses the method and system, said designating said destination area code comprising: defaulting said designated destination area code to be the same as an originating area code (See Fig. 1 and col. 2 lines 21-48).

26. In regards to claims 45 and 94, Brendzel discloses the method and system, said designating said destination area code comprising: designating said designated destination area code to be different from an originating area code (See col. 2 lines 1-9).

27. In regards to claims 46 and 95, Brendzel discloses the method and system, said designating said destination area code comprising: defaulting said designated destination area code to be different from an originating area code (See col. 2 lines 1-9).

28. In regards to claims 47 and 96, Brendzel discloses the method and system, said specifying said seven-digit telephone number comprising: entering said seven-digit telephone number into a telephone number entry device (See col. 4 lines 32-42).

29. In regards to claims 48 and 97, Brendzel discloses the method and system, said

specifying said seven-digit telephone number comprising: retrieving said seven-digit telephone number from a memory (See col. 4 lines 32-42).

30. In regards to claims 49 and 98, Brendzel discloses the method and system, further comprising causing said call to be signaled using digits representing said designated destination area code in combination with digits representing said specified seven-digit telephone number (See col. 4 lines 32-42).

31. In regards to claims 50 and 99, Brendzel discloses the method and system, further comprising causing said call to be signaled using a digit "1" in combination with said digits representing said designated destination area code and in further combination with said digits representing said specified seven-digit telephone number (See col. 5 lines 1-16).

32. In regards to claims 51 and 100, Brendzel discloses the method and system, further comprising causing said call to be signaled using a digit "1" in combination with digits representing said specified seven-digit telephone number (See col. 5 lines 1-16).

33. In regards to claims 52 and 101, Brendzel discloses the method and system, further comprising causing said call to be signaled using signaling information representing said designated destination area code in combination with signaling information representing said specified seven-digit telephone number (See col. 4 lines 32-42).

34. In regards to claims 53 and 102, Brendzel discloses the method and system, further comprising causing said call to be signaled using signaling information representing a "1" in combination with said signaling information representing said

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designated destination area code and in further combination with said signaling information representing said specified seven-digit telephone number (See col. 5 lines 1-16).

35. In regards to claims 54 and 103, Brendzel discloses the method and system, further comprising causing said call to be signaled using signaling information representing a "1" in combination with signaling information representing said specified seven-digit telephone number (See col. 5 lines 1-16).

36. In regards to claims 55 and 104, Brendzel discloses the method and system, further comprising using a call-originating device for: designating said designated destination area code, specifying said seven-digit telephone number and causing said call to be signaled (See col. 4 lines 32-42).

37. In regards to claims 56 and 105, Brendzel discloses the method and system, comprising using customer premises equipment separate from and connected to a call-originating device, in combination with a call-originating device, for: designating said designated destination area code, specifying said seven-digit telephone number and causing said call to be signaled (See col. 4 lines 32-42).

38. In regards to claims 57 and 106, Brendzel discloses the method and system, further comprising using telecommunications service provider equipment separate from and connected to a call-originating device, in combination with said call-originating device, for: designating said designated destination area code, specifying said seven-digit telephone number and causing said call to be signaled (See col. 4 lines 32-42).

39. In regards to claims 58 and 107, Brendzel discloses the method and system,

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further comprising using customer premises equipment separate from and connected to a call-originating device, in combination with telecommunications service provider equipment separate from and connected to said customer premises equipment, in further combination with said call-originating device, for: designating said designated destination area code, specifying said seven-digit telephone number and causing said call to be signaled (See col. 4 lines 32-42).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

40. Claims 20-22, 31, 33, 69-71, 80, 82, 85-88, 116-118, and 133-135 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brendzel et al. (US 5,859,901), in view of Veschi (US 6,298,131).

41. In regards to claims 20, 69, 116, and 133, Brendzel discloses all of claims 20, 69, 116, and 133 limitations, except the method and system, said area code configuration comprising area code overlays. Veschi, however, does disclose area code configuration comprising area code overlays (e.g., overlaps) (See col. 4 lines 8-36). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate this feature within the method, as a way of automatically

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updating speed dial buttons when a telephone number changes, such as when a party moves or when a party's area code changes.

42. In regards to claims 21, 70, 117, and 134, Brendzel discloses all of claims 21, 70, 117, and 134 limitations, except the method and system, said area code configuration comprising area code splits. Veschi, however, does disclose area code configuration comprising area code splits (e.g., is divided) (See col. 4 lines 8-22).

43. In regards to claims 22, 31, 71, 80, 85, 118, and 135, Brendzel discloses all of claims 22, 31, 71, 80, 85, 118, and 135 limitations, except the method and system, said selecting one of said area code selectors comprising: activating a predetermined data entry key. Veschi, however, does disclose said selecting one of said area code selectors comprising: activating a predetermined data entry key (See Fig. 3 and col. 2-3 lines 66-13).

44. In regards to claims 33 and 82, Brendzel discloses all of claims 33 and 82 limitations, except the method and system, further comprising: designating one of said plurality of area codes to be said designated destination area code using a "hot button". Veschi, however, does disclose designating one of said plurality of area codes to be said designated destination area code using a "hot button" (See col. 4 lines 42-56).

45. In regards to claims 86, 87, and 88, Brendzel discloses all of claims 86, 87, and 88 limitations, except the system, further comprising said user interface, said computerized processing, and said computerized storage for: the user to designate said designated destination area code. Veschi, however, does disclose the user to designate said designated destination area code (See col. 3 lines 14-23).

Conclusion

46. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to THJUAN K. ADDY whose telephone number is (571)272-7486. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30-5:00pm.

47. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad Matar can be reached on (571) 272-7488. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

48. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Thjuan K. Addy/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2614

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